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THE HUMBLE
PETITION

Of His Excellency
THOMAS Lord *FAIRFAX*,

AND THE
General Council of Officers
OF THE

A R M Y

under His Command :

To the Honorable,
The *COMMONS* of *ENGLAND*
IN
PARLIAMENT,
ASSEMBLED.

Die Sabbathi, 20 Januarii, 1648.

O *Ordered by the Commons assembled in Parliament, That the Petition of the General, and the General Council of the Officers of the Army under His Command, this day presented to the House, be forthwith printed.*

H: Scobel, Cler. Parl. D. Com.

London, Printed for Edward Husband, Printer to the Honorable House of Commons. Jan. 22. 1648.

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Fairfax (Thomas) 3rd Earl Fairfax



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To the Honorable,
 The COMMONS of *England*
 IN
 PARLIAMENT assembled:

The humble Petition of His Excellency Thomas Lord Fairfax, and the General Council of Officers of the Army under His command.

IN our late Remonstrance of the 18th of November last, we propounded (next after the Matters of publique Justice) some Foundations for a general Settlement of Peace in the Nation; which we therein desired might be formed and Established in the nature of a general Contract, or *Agreement of the People*. And since then, the matters so propounded being wholly rejected, or no

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consideration of them admitted in Parliament (though visibly of highest moment to the Publique) and all ordinary Remedies being denied, we were necessitated to an extraordinary way of Remedy ; whereby, to avoid the Mischiefs then at hand, and set you in a condition (without such obstructions or diversions by corrupt Members) to proceed to matters of publique Justice, and general Settlement. Now as nothing did in our own hearts more justify our late undertaking towards many Members in this Parliament, then the Necessity thereof, in order to a sound Settlement in the Kingdom, and the integrity of our Intentions to make use of it onely to that end : So we hold our selves obliged to give the People all Assurance possible , That our opposing the corrupt closure endeavored with the King, was not in Design to hinder Peace or Settlement (thereby to render our Employments as Soldiers necessary to be continued) and that neither that extraordinary course we have taken , nor any other proceedings of ours, have been intended for the setting
up

up of any particular Party or Interest, by
 or with which to uphold our selves in
 Power and Dominion over the Nation ;
 but that it was and is the desire of our
 hearts , in all we have done (with the
 hindering of that imminent evil and de-
 structive Conjunction with the KING)
 to make way for a Settlement of the Peace
 and Government of this Kingdom, upon
 Grounds of FREEDOM and SAFETY.
 And therefore because our former overtures
 for that purpose , being onely in general
 terms , and not reduc'd to a certainty of
 particulars fit for practice) might possibly
 be understood but as plausible pretences,
 not intended really to be put into effect,
 we have thought it our duty to draw out
 those generals into an intire frame of parti-
 culars, ascertained with such circumstances,
 as may make it effectively practicable: And
 for that end, while your time hath been
 taken up in other matters of high and pre-
 sent importance , we have spent much of
 ours in preparing and perfecting such a
 Draught of Agreement, and in all things
 so

so circumstantiated, as to render it ripe for your speedier consideration, and the Kingdoms acceptance and practice (if approved) and so we do herewith humbly present it to you. Now to prevent misunderstanding of our intentions therein, we have but this to say, That we are far from such a spirit, as positively to impose our private apprehensions upon the judgements of any in the Kingdom (that have not forfeited their Freedom) and much less upon your selves; neither are we apt in any wise to insist upon circumstantial things, or ought that is not evidently Fundamental to that Publike Interest for which you and we have declared and ingaged: But in this tender of it, we humbly Desire,

I.

That whether it shall be fully approved by you, and received by the people (as it now stands) or not, It may yet remain upon Record before you, a perpetual witness of our real intentions and utmost endeavours for a sound and equal Settlement,
and

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and as a Testimony whereby all men may be assured, what we are willing and ready to acquiesce in, and their jealousies satisfied, or mouths stoppt, who are apt to think or say we have no Bottom.

II.

That (with all expedition which the immediate and pressing great affairs will admit) it may receive your most mature Consideration and Resolutions upon it; not that we desire either the whole, or what you should like in it, should be by your authority imposed as a Law upon the Kingdom (for so it would lose the intended nature of an Agreement of the People) but that (so far as it concurs with your own judgements) it may receive your seal of Approbation onely.

III.

That (according to the method propounded therein) it may be tendred to the people in all parts, to be subscribed by those that are willing (as Petitions and other things of a voluntary nature are) and that mean while the ascertaining of those circumstances

circumstances which it refers to Commissioners in the several Counties, may be proceeded upon in a way preparatory to the practice of it. And if upon the account of Subscriptions (to be returned by those Commissioners in April next) there appear to be a general or common Reception of it amongst the people, or by the well-affected of them, and such as are not obnoxious for Delinquency, it may then take place and effect, according to the Tenor and Substance of it.

By the Appointment of His Excellency
and the General Council of Officers.

JOHN RUSHWORTH Secr'

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